

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing self-destructing electronic mail messages, comprising:

receiving a request to send a self-destructing electronic mail message, the request comprising a message body and a time period within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed;

determining if an intended recipient's electronic mail server application supports receiving self-destructing electronic mail messages;

if the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages, notifying a sender that the intended recipient's mail server does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages;

determining if the [an] electronic mail address is located on a network beyond the sender's home domain;

providing a security warning message when it is determined that the electronic mail address is located on the network beyond the sender's home domain, the security warning message indicating that the self-destructing electronic mail message is about to be sent to the network beyond the sender's home domain;

receiving a response to the security warning message;

canceled, when the response indicates that a user does not want to proceed, the electronic mail message to the intended recipient whose electronic mail address is located on the network beyond the sender's home domain;

transmitting, when the response indicates that the user wants to proceed, the request to an electronic mail client application; and

destroying all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message after the time period has elapsed, wherein the all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises a plurality of electronic copies of the self-destructing electronic mail message stored in at least one of the following: computer system memory and a mass storage device.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the time period comprises an indication that the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed *after* it has been opened and closed on the electronic mail client application.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
transmitting an electronic mail message to the electronic mail client application indicating that the self-destructing electronic mail message has been destroyed after the destruction of the self-destructing electronic mail message.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the electronic mail message sent to the electronic mail client application after the destruction of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises an identity of the sender of the self-destructing

electronic mail message and an indication that the self-destructing electronic mail message was sent and destroyed.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

encrypting the self-destructing electronic mail message prior to transmitting the self-destructing electronic mail message to the electronic mail client application.

6.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing self-destructing electronic mail messages, the method comprising:

receiving a request to transmit a self-destructing electronic mail message comprising a message body and a time period within which all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed, wherein the all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises a plurality of electronic copies of the self-destructing electronic mail message stored in at least one of the following: computer system memory and a mass storage device;

determining if an intended recipient's electronic mail server application supports receiving self-destructing electronic mail messages;

if the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages, notifying a sender that the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages;

determining if the [an] electronic mail address is located on a network beyond the sender's home domain;

providing a security warning message when it is determined that the electronic mail address is located on the network beyond the sender's home domain, the security warning message indicating that the self-destructing electronic mail message is about to be sent to the network beyond the sender's home domain;

receiving a response to the security warning message;

canceling, when the response indicates that a user does not want to proceed, the electronic mail message to the intended recipient whose electronic mail address is located on the network beyond the sender's home domain; and

transmitting, when the response indicates that the user wants to proceed, the self-destructing electronic mail message only to an electronic mail server application configured to provide self-destructing electronic mail messages.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a self-destructing electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server application; and

destroying all instances of the electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server after a period of time specified in the self-destructing electronic mail message has elapsed.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail message from being printed.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail message from being forwarded.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail message from being saved.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail message from being moved.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail message from being moved to a clipboard.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing electronic mail message in a manner that prevents a screen display containing the self-destructing electronic mail message from being captured.

16.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system for providing self-destructing electronic mail messages, the system comprising:

an electronic mail server application, comprising:

means for receiving a request to transmit a self-destructing electronic mail message,

means for transmitting the self-destructing electronic mail message to an electronic mail client application, and

means for causing all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message to be destroyed after a period of time specified in the request, wherein the all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises a plurality of electronic copies of the self-destructing electronic mail message

stored in at least one of the following: computer system memory and a mass storage device,

wherein the electronic mail server application determines if an intended recipient's electronic mail server application supports receiving self-destructing electronic mail messages, and if the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages, notifying a sender that the intended recipient's electronic mail server does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages; and
an electronic mail client application, comprising:

means for canceling, when a response to a security warning message, indicates that a user does not want to proceed, an email address for the intended recipient that is located on a network beyond the sender's home domain;

means for transmitting, when a response to the security warning message indicates that a user wants to proceed, the request to the electronic mail server application, the request comprising an electronic mail message body, and

means for specifying a period of time within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application further comprises means for receiving a self-destructing electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server application and means for destroying the electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server after a period of time specified in the self-destructing electronic mail message has elapsed.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application further comprises means for preventing the self-destructing electronic mail message from being printed.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application further comprises means for preventing the self-destructing electronic mail message from being forwarded.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application further comprises means for preventing the self-destructing electronic mail message from being saved.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application further comprises means for preventing the self-destructing electronic mail message from being moved.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application further comprises means for preventing the self-destructing electronic mail message from being moved to a clipboard.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application further comprises means for preventing a screen display containing the self-destructing electronic mail message from being captured.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the period of time within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed comprises an indication that the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed immediately after it has been read on the electronic mail client application.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 20, wherein the electronic mail server application further comprises means for transmitting an electronic mail message to the electronic mail client application indicating that the self-destructing electronic mail message has been destroyed after the destruction of the self-destructing electronic mail message.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail server application further comprises means for encrypting the self-destructing electronic mail message and wherein the electronic mail client application comprises means for decrypting the self-destructing electronic mail message.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing an email address for the intended recipient whose electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein notifying the sender comprises providing a user interface window and giving the sender an option to proceed with sending the self-destructing electronic mail message or canceling the self-destructing electronic mail message.